

RRGL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Building partnerships and healthy watersheds in Montana

A watershed is "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community." - John Wesley Powell



MT DNRC CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

July 2017

Funding Opportunity Application Summary

Department-Division	MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)- Conservation and Resource Development Division
Funding Opportunity Title	Watershed Management Grant Program
Program Purpose	Watershed related planning and management activities which conserve, develop, manage or preserve the state renewable resources and/or support the implementation and development of the state water plan.
Dates	Deadline: TBD late 2017
Application Process	Submit applications online through www.fundingmt.org
Application Fee	No application fees are required.
Eligible Applicants	Local government, state government, and tribal government entities. Non-profit entities may apply with local government sponsorship OR as a private entity with a match requirement.
Match	Local government, state government, and tribal government entities: DNRC will provide 100% reimbursement for eligible activities. No cost share match is required. Private Entities: A cost share of 50% of total project costs is required. Match shares may be in-kind services or cash.
Funding Amount	Up to \$20,000 per grant. Each award shall not exceed two-years. Funding does not cover indirect costs.
Funding Program Limit	DNRC's Watershed Management Grant Program has \$300,000 available for the 2019 biennium
Program Contact	Lindsay Volpe Renewable Resource Grant Program Manager 406-444-9766 lmvolpe@mt.gov

Background

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) administers a renewable resource grant and loan (RRGL) program to enhance Montana's renewable resources through projects that measurably conserve, develop, manage, or preserve resources. The RRGL program was established by the Montana Legislature as described in Montana Code Annotated Title 85, Chapter 1, Part 6. RRGL programs include renewable resource project grants and planning grants, irrigation development grants, emergency grants, private septic loans, private grants, and this Watershed Management Grant Program.

Purpose

The Watershed Management Grant Program goals are to provide financial support for the development and implementation of locally led watershed resource management activities that are consistent with the statutory purpose of the RRGL program.

Qualified Activities

Grants will be awarded for the planning and implementation of watershed projects which measurably conserve, develop, manage or preserve natural resources. Examples of qualified activities include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Implementation of watershed management projects;
- Development of planning documents;
- Public meetings, data collection, and other tasks related to planning;
- Staff time related to project planning and management;
- Grant writing;
- Hosting a Big Sky Watershed Corps member; and
- Professional conference attendance.

Activities that do not qualify

- Political lobbying or litigation
- Program costs, rent, utilities, or other operational costs.
- Invasive species related activities-control/inventory of aquatic or terrestrial plants and/or organisms (use DNRC Resource Development Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program).
- Land or property acquisition
- Food

Eligible Applicants

Any division of state government, tribal government, or other county, city or local subdivision OR private entities with 50% match funding may apply.

Funding limits

Maximum award per entity per biennium is \$20,000. Grants are allowable up to the limits below:

- **\$10,000** of applicant staff time for developing or implementing elements of a local or state natural resource management plan.
- **\$5,000** cost share of host site fee for a Big Sky Watershed Corps member whose service term will contribute to watershed health and protection, education and outreach, and/or volunteer generation in support of a local or state natural resource management plan.
- **\$2,500** for travel costs and conference, seminar or education event registration where elements are relevant to a local or state natural resource management plan.
- **\$2,500** for meeting costs to convene landowners and partners to coordinate locally led natural resource stewardship initiatives in support of elements in a local or state natural resource management plan.

Length of Activities

Watershed Management Grant contracts must be completed within two years.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Watershed Management Grant applications will be evaluated and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of existence of a local renewable resource concern that will be addressed;
- Measurability of anticipated benefits to renewable resources;
- Specificity of proposed activities and project purpose;
- Connection to local and state natural resource plans;
- Evidence demonstrating local landowner, community and stakeholder participation in organization; and
- Financial statements and annual budget demonstrate fiscal accountability.

Questions?

Please contact Lindsay Volpe, Watershed Management program manager at 406-444-9766, lmvolpe@mt.gov, to discuss options for your watershed.